GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4620
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
INTER ISLAND SHIPPING SERVICES
RAMESHWAR DUDI

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inter-island shipping services of the Southern group of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is inadequate and far from satisfactory;

(b) whether A & N Administration has placed any order for acquiring new passenger vessels for the inter-island services;

(c) whether there is any proposal for acquiring speed boats for passenger services and if so, what is the present position of acquisition;

(d) the number of times global tenders have been floated for acquisition of the passenger ship-Katamaran and what is the present status of the vessels to be acquired; and

(e) the number of times the representatives of A & N Islands Administration visited foreign countries in this regard and the total amount spent and the outcome of these visits?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a) At present only two vessels viz. MV Chowra and Sentinel, with carrying capacity of 300 passengers each are available, which can operate in all weather conditions in the Southern Group of Islands.In addition, MV Harshavardhana is also deployed for limited number of sailings (2-3 each month) to augment the shipping services in the Southern Group of Islands.Approximately 4500-5000 passengers travel per month between Port Blair and the Southern Group of Islands excluding Hut Bay.

(b) Two 400 passenger vessels are under construction at Hoogly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd. (HDPEL), Kolkata and Alcock Ashdowr (Gujarat) respectively. Another 500 passenger vessel is in the stage of tendering process.

(c) There is a proposal for procurement of two 250k pax speed boats/crafts for Inter-Island sector during the 10th Plan period.As per 10th Plan acquisition program these have been proposed to be acquired in 2005.

(d) Global tenders have been invited only once during 1998 for acquisition of two Catamarans and a conditional approval was recommended. The proposal has been given up after taking into account the non feasibility recovery of full operational charges.

(e) A team comprising of Director of Shipping Services (DSS), a representative of National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam and Shipping Corporation of India visited Japan during March, 2002 to evaluate the sea riding qualities and the performance of the ride control system of the Catamaran which was proposed to be acquired by the Administration. The visit of DSS to Japan was on the invitation of Indus Marine to attend the launching ceremony of new series of Yanmar Engines and all the expenses were borne by the company. The total expenditure incurred during the tour by the team was Rs.2,51,696/-. The Committee submitted its report to the Administration recommending procurement after modifications.